



Saguaro National Park News Release

13-34

For Immediate Release

July 2013

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Saguaro National Park July Program Schedule

Saguaro National Park is offering a variety of hikes and talks this summer that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. This listing is also available on the park's website, www.nps.gov/sagu, or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

July 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 10:45 a.m. **One Year in the Life of a Saguaro** Talk: 30 minutes

The saguaro celebrates annual events and faces challenges throughout the year. A biologist explains how and when it flowers; its growth patterns; what "arms" mean; and how it adapts and fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 1:15 p.m. **Puma: Predator, Prey, and Peril** Talk: 45 minutes

Often called puma, cougar, or mountain lion, discover the true nature of this secretive, nocturnal and elusive predator. Explore the threats that this creature faces as it struggles to survive within an ever shrinking habitat. *Wheelchair accessible.*

July 2, 9, 16, 22, 30 3:15 p.m. **Whales in the Desert** Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the unique connection between whales and the Sonoran Desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

July 3, 10, 17, 24 10:45 a.m. **Petroglyphs: Communications Etched In Stone** Talk: 30 minutes

The Hohokam people carved and pecked symbols into stone, leaving meanings still subject to speculation centuries later. What is the current thinking about the meanings of petroglyphs, and what might have indigenous people been communicating? *Wheelchair accessible.*

July 5, 12, 19, 26 2:15 p.m. **Lizards: Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool** Talk: 30 minutes

Frequently overlooked, discover how these small denizens of the desert become a critical component of our desert community. *Wheelchair accessible.*

July 2, 3, 14, 21, 28 9:45 a.m. **Neighborhood Characters** Walk: 40 minutes, 100 yards

An easy morning walk in the Cactus Garden will bring visitors face to thorns with plants that remind them of people they know, including "Bill Gates". *Wheelchair accessible.*

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 1:15 p.m. **Against All Odds** Talk: 30 minutes

A saguaro might produce 40 million seeds in its lifetime, but only one or two seedlings will survive into maturity. Discover how the "deck is stacked" against their survival and what conditions are needed for growth into the majestic icon of the desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

July 1, 6, 8, 15, 22, 30, 31 2:15 p.m. **Homesteading Adventures in the Desert** Talk: 30 minutes

Enjoy the fascinating oral history surrounding Mexican American Homesteaders' adventures around Saguaro National Park communities. *Wheelchair accessible.*

July 1, 6, 8, 15, 22, 30, 31 9:45 a.m. **Snakes** Talk: 30 minutes

Learn about the communication skills, adaptations, and defense systems of snakes, those misunderstood creatures. *Wheelchair accessible.*

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (East, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail):

July 6, 13, 20, 27 11:00 a.m. **The Changing Cactus Forest** *Presentation*
7, 14, 21, 28 3:00 p.m.

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to see the changes that have come to the Cactus Forest in the 80 years of Saguaro National Park and to think about what the next 80 years will look like. Wheelchair accessible.

July 6, 13, 27 3:00 p.m. **Meet the Hohokam** *Presentation*
8, 9, 14, 15, 21, 28 11:00 a.m.

Come meet the early inhabitants of Saguaro National Park in this auditorium presentation. Discover what their life was like here. What did these people use for food, shelter, and clothing? Wheelchair accessible.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org

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